

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE: RESPONSE AFTER FINAL
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Serial No.: 08/833,842
Docket No.: 97-092-US

filed within two months of the mailing date (January 18 being a federal holiday), an Advisory Action is appropriate in the above-identified case.

In the Claims

Kindly cancel claim 13.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Twice amended) A therapeutic mixture comprised of an inhibitor of Hmg-CoA reductase and a [substrate of NOS] biological equivalent of arginine, said inhibitor being selected from the group consisting of:

lovastatin;
pravastatin;
simvastatin;
fluvastatin;
dalvastatin;
compactin;
HR-780;
BMY 22,089;
BMY 22,566;
SQ 33,600;
GR 95,030; or
CI 981.

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Kindly add new claims 20 and 21.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor of Hmg-CoA reductase is pravastatin.

21. (New) The therapeutic mixture of claim 15, wherein said inhibitor of Hmg-CoA reductase is pravastatin and said biological equivalent of arginine is L-arginine.

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this case, as well as the courteous interview extended to the undersigned on December 10, 1998. It is respectfully submitted that in light of the agreement reached during the interview, and the amendments to the claims, all of the pending claims (claims 1-11, 14-19, and new claims 20-21) are in condition for final allowance.

As was discussed during the interview, neither Pitt nor Cooke, alone or in combination, make obvious the presently claimed invention. Even assuming arguendo that the combination of these references is proper, such a combination would not arrive at the presently claimed invention. Pitt teaches lowering cholesterol with pravastatin, and possibly combining pravastatin with a low cholesterol diet. As was pointed out during the interview, however, this simply suggests augmenting the effect of pravastatin with a low cholesterol diet. Cooke links arginine with vasodilation. Neither reference provides motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner and arrive at Applicant's invention. Only by Applicant's teaching that pravastatin may be involved in the arginine